



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,763	05/27/2004	Mark Pastore	51900-PASTORE-003	3762
34325	7590	02/10/2009	EXAMINER	
STANLEY H. KREMEN			RAMIREZ, RAMON O	
4 LENAPE LANE			ART UNIT	
EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816			PAPER NUMBER	
			3632	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	
			DELIVERY MODE	
			02/10/2009	
			ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspto@patentsgroup.com

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/709,763	Applicant(s) PASTORE ET AL.	
	Examiner RAMON O. RAMIREZ	Art Unit 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Detailed Action

This is the first Office Action corresponding to original filing. The application contains 18 claims.

Drawings

The drawings have been accepted by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 10-12, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veltri et al. (Pat No 6,641,102). The patent to Veltri et al. discloses an adapter for holding fast food container in a cylindrical automobile cup holder, comprising a lower member (30) and upper member (20) defining by a plurality of upper members. As to claim 5, not to make the lower member hollow is considered as an obvious matter of engineering choice, as admitted by Applicant. As to claim 10, the material from which the upper member is made of is considered a matter of expediency; for example, to make it of flexible material would provide for a more secure fitting for the food container. As

to claim 11, the patent shows four upper members but it can be formed with two if desired without affecting the performance of the device. As to claim 12, the shape of the upper members can be cylindrical as a matter of engineering choice.

Claims 7-9, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Veltri et al. in view of Van Buren (Pat No 3,298,646).

The patent to Van Buren teaches the use of ribs/strips as reinforcement means. Even though Van Buren shows the ribs on a planar surface, it would be expected to provide them on any type of surface with the same results. The number of ribs used and the shape of them are considered as obvious matters of engineering choice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Veltri et al. As described above, Veltri et al. disclose means for fitting the adapter to an automobile cup holder and means for holding and stabilizing a container.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sarullo, Cassetari, Ken-Fawkes, Thomas, Osborn, Ney and Dane show other devices of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RAMON O. RAMIREZ whose telephone number is (571) 272-6821. The examiner is usually available Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor ALLEN SHRIVER can be reached on (571) 272-6698.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/709,763
Art Unit: 3632

Page 5

A shortened period for response to this Office Action expires THREE MONTHS
from the mailing date of this action.

ROR
February 3, 2009

/RAMON O. RAMIREZ/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3632